

Subactivity: Ocean and Coastal Management
Line Item: Coastal Management

GOAL STATEMENT:

The goal of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.), administered by NOS' Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), is to ensure the rational use and conservation of the lands and waters of the Nation's 35 coastal and Great Lakes states and territories. OCRM provides financial and management assistance to 34 coastal states and territories, enabling them to: (1) develop and implement comprehensive coastal resource management programs; (2) undertake new and innovative projects to enhance management and protection of the coastal zone; and (3) establish and manage estuarine research reserves to protect estuarine areas for long-term research and education, and support coastal decision-making. OCRM also administers NOAA's implementation of Executive Order 13158, which has the following goals: (1) to develop a national system of marine protected areas (MPAs) and (2) to improve the stewardship of existing MPAs.

BASE DESCRIPTION:

The nation's coastal and ocean areas represent some of its most ecologically and economically important regions. Congress recognized this fact in 1972 when it passed the CZMA. This act created a national framework for coastal protection through the Coastal Zone Management program and National Estuarine Research Reserve System. Executive Order 13158 recognized the importance of these areas as well, by directing the federal government to significantly strengthen and expand the national system of marine protected areas (MPAs), working closely with state, territorial, local and tribal trustees and other stakeholders.

NOS' OCRM supports this national framework and provides leadership to balance the use and protection of the nation's coasts and oceans. All programs administered by this Office directly support NOAA's Strategic Plan Mission Goal to "Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystem-based management."

Program Assessment and Rating Tool (PART): A significant portion of NOAA's Coastal Management program was reviewed with OMB's Program Assessment and Rating Tool (PART) during the FY 2005 and 2006 budget processes. NOAA is on track in meeting OMB's PART recommendations, including developing meaningful long-term measures. The program has developed a suite of measures, which will be phased in for implementation beginning in FY 2005. In addition, the National Estuarine Research Reserve program continues to integrate with NOAA's research programs by ensuring that the Graduate Research Fellowship Program's focus areas are aligned with NOAA's strategic plan, and by developing links between its environmental monitoring programs and the Nation's Integrated Ocean Observing System.

Base activities support the objective, “Enhance the conservation and management of coastal and marine resources to meet America's economic, social, and environmental needs” under the Department of Commerce Strategic Goal of “Observe, protect, and manage the Earth's resources to promote environmental needs.”

CZM GRANTS

The purpose of the national Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program is to maintain and improve the quality and utility of the nation’s coastal lands and waters through a national network of federally-approved, coordinated, and supported state management programs that seek to maintain the balance between the needs of resource protection and coastal-dependent economic activity. This program recognizes the significance of coastal resources to our nation’s population and economy and promotes improved management of these important assets. Federal matching funds are provided through cooperative agreements to support state staff and community projects that address the broad spectrum of coastal management issues ranging from habitat conservation and protection of life and property from coastal hazards, to urban waterfront and port revitalization (Section 306/306A CZMA).

NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE SYSTEM (NERRS)

NERRS (Section 315 CZMA) is a national network of estuarine protected areas representing the diverse biological and physical characteristics of estuarine systems of the United States. Reserves are owned and operated by state agencies or universities and serve as local, regional, and national sources of technical information and testing grounds for the improvement of coastal resource management. As of FY 2004, there are 26 designated reserves in 21 states and territories covering over one million acres of estuarine lands and waters, with an additional site in the designation process (Texas).

CZM PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The programs described above, CZM Grants and NERRS, are administered with the resources provided in the budget for CZM Program Administration. In addition to the processing of over 100 grant awards each year, OCRM staff carry out numerous critical functions necessary to execute these programs. These functions include:

- Providing management assistance to states in the development, implementation, and improvement of state CZM program and estuarine research reserves;
- Reviewing federal agency actions for compliance with the federal consistency provisions of Section 307 of the CZMA;
- Conducting outreach and education activities concerning coastal issues;
- Conducting programmatic evaluations of each state CZM program and NERR every three to five years;
- Analyzing national issues and trends in coastal resource management;
- Providing policy guidance and assistance to states on interpretation of CZMA requirements, as well as those of other federal statutes and programs, and;

- Administering outstanding loans and repayments to the Coastal Zone Management Fund from the Coastal Energy Impact Assistance Program.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPA) PROGRAM

NOAA's MPA Program, in coordination with the Department of the Interior, fills a long-standing need for objective science, analysis and tools that support the effective and equitable use of MPAs for diverse conservation and management objectives. The MPA Center's primary goal is to work with MPA managers and stakeholders to develop a representative national system of MPAs to more effectively conserve and protect our significant areas of natural and cultural marine heritage. Moreover, the Center coordinates the work of these disparate federal, state and tribal MPA programs to address conservation goals that could not be accomplished by individual programs. With a small headquarters in Silver Spring, MD, the MPA Center has regional and scientific support in Boston, Massachusetts, and Monterey and Santa Cruz, California. A diverse MPA Federal Advisory Committee (MPAFAC) -- including representatives of industry, user groups, scientists, and others -- was established in 2003 to provide advice on the establishment and management of MPAs. The MPAFAC recently released their consensus report supporting the Center's effort to develop an effective national system of MPAs, and providing valuable guidance on the goals, components, functions and development of the system.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

NOAA will continue to work with Congress to reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act.

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA

(Dollars in thousands)

Subactivity: Ocean and Coastal Management	FY 2005 ACTUALS	FY 2006 CURRENTLY AVAILABLE	FY 2007 BASE PROGRAM	FY 2007 ESTIMATE	INCREASE / DECREASE
Line Item: Coastal Management					
CZM Grants	66,039	66,080	63,297	66,146	2,849
CZMA Program Administration	6,604	6,607	6,977	7,605	628
National Estuarine Research Reserve System	16,165	16,175	16,231	16,806	575
Nonpoint Pollution Implementation Grants	2,957	2,959	-	-	-
Marine Protected Areas	2,957	1,480	1,478	2,128	650
Baldwin Educational Program	-	986	-	-	-
TOTAL	94,722	94,287	87,983	92,685	4,702
FTE	53	55	55	56	1

Note: The dollars in this table represent budget authority.

PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2007:

Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Grants (0 FTE and +\$2,849,000): NOAA requests an increase of \$2,849,000 for a total of \$66,146,000 to address increasing pressures on coastal areas and resources within these areas, including the need to enhance state and local capacity to address these pressures. The additional funds will support state participation in implementing key actions of the U.S. Ocean Action Plan. In particular, the increase will enable states to improve regional collaboration and planning, and address such critical coastal issues as ensuring that coastal communities reduce vulnerability to the impacts of coastal hazards and improving management of coastal watersheds. Finally, the funds will assist states in implementing the new coastal management performance measurement system developed in response to Congressional direction, the Administration's Performance Management Agenda, and findings of OMB's Program Assessment and Rating Tool review. In FY 2005, state coastal management programs began implementing performance measures under this system, which is designed to measure progress in achieving the objectives of the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Statement of Need

The coastal zone continues to be an economic engine for the Nation, as well as home to some of the Nation's most valuable natural resources. At the same time, these areas are facing increasing pressures from population growth and resource use. State and local coastal management programs are at the forefront of safeguarding the economic and environmental health of these areas.

The program requires additional resources to respond to increasing coastal pressures and competing demands for limited space within the coastal zone for working waterfronts, coastal recreation, and protection of important habitats and land features, such as wetlands, dunes and floodplains.

Proposed Actions

In FY 2007, the Administration proposes to increase the amount of CZM grant funding that is awarded competitively under Sections 306A and 309. Increased competition and funding flexibility will enable the coastal management program to better focus available resources on significant national issues. During the current year, emphasis will be placed on developing resilient coastal communities and supporting regional coastal and ocean management initiatives. The Administration plans to double the amount of competitively awarded funding this year (compared to FY 2005), and will work towards having 50 percent of CZMA funding awarded through a competitive process by FY 2009. NOAA plans to collaborate with its state partners to develop a process by which the goal can be met. NOAA will continue to actively support the Gulf rebuilding efforts through this program.

Benefits

This increase will result in improved regional collaboration and management; local communities that are better prepared for, and more resilient to the impacts of coastal hazards; and continued enhancement and implementation of the performance measurement system.

Performance Goals and Measurement Data

This increase will support the objective, “Enhance the conservation and management of coastal and marine resources to meet America's economic, social, and environmental needs” under the Department of Commerce Strategic Goal of “Observe, protect, and manage the Earth's resources to promote environmental needs.” This increase supports NOAA’s Ecosystem Performance Objective to, increase in the number of acres protected by setbacks, buffers or public ownership to direct development away from areas vulnerable to hazards. Progress towards this measure is directly related to the capacity of state CZM programs.

Coastal Zone Management Act Program Administration: (+1 FTE and +\$628,000): NOAA requests \$628,000 and 1 FTE, for a total of \$7,605,000 to administer the Coastal Zone Management Act and support an expanded National Estuarine Research Reserve System that includes a new reserve in Texas. The increase will support NOAA staff to work with the new reserve and the associated travel, equipment, training, rent and supplies costs, as well as with state coastal management programs. When new reserves are designated, it is important that NOAA be able to provide technical assistance in research, monitoring, education, and resource stewardship to give new reserve programs a solid start. In addition, the increase will cover printing of revised reserve system information to include the Texas reserve, and contractual funds to update reserve system plans and performance measures for facilities, land acquisition, research and education to cover the addition of a new reserve.

National Estuarine Research Reserve System (0 FTE and +\$575,000): NOAA requests an increase of \$575,000 for a total of \$16,806,000 to support an expanded National Estuarine Research Reserve System. The increase will allow NOAA to improve monitoring through a new Texas NERR in the western Gulf of Mexico, which is scheduled for designation in late 2006. This new reserve is located in a biogeographic region that is not currently represented within the System.

Statement of Need

The Coastal Zone Management Act directs NOAA to establish a system of research reserves that are representative of the various biogeographic regions and subregions around the coastal U.S. These areas are protected for long-term research and education in order to provide coastal managers with information about natural and human-induced changes to estuaries to support better resource management decisions. Reserve education programs provide hands-on learning experiences for students and teachers and a way to engage the community in learning about their estuary. In FY 2006, a reserve is scheduled for designation in Texas. This increase is necessary in order to fund operations at the new reserve without negatively impacting important research and education programs across the remaining 26 reserves.

Proposed Actions

NOAA will proceed with plans to designate the Texas Reserve as the 27th National Estuarine Research Reserve late in FY 2006 in partnership with the State of Texas. NOAA will work with the state to lay the groundwork for implementing system-wide monitoring, research, education and training programs in FY 2007 with the requested increase. This increase will provide operational funds to support education, stewardship and research programming at the new Reserve. Specifically, funding will provide equipment and staffing support for physical and biological monitoring to implement the NERRS System-wide Monitoring Program. It will also support implementation of NERRS education and coastal training programs at the reserve, as well as stewardship programming to support NERRS strategic goals and objectives.

Benefits

This increase will expand the research, observing, and education capabilities of the reserve system into a new biogeographic region without an impact to other research, education and training programs within the Reserve System. It will improve the availability of monitoring, research, and education programs in the community in which the reserve is located, as well as filling a gap in these programs within estuarine types across the nation.

Performance Goals and Measurement Data

This increase will support the objective, “Enhance the conservation and management of coastal and marine resources to meet America's economic, social, and environmental needs” under the Department of Commerce Strategic Goal of “Observe, protect, and manage the Earth's resources to promote environmental needs.” This increase supports NOAA’s Ecosystem Performance Objective to, “Increase the number of regional coastal and marine ecosystems delineated with approved indicators of ecological health and socioeconomic benefits that are monitored and understood.”

Marine Protected Areas (0 FTE and +\$650,000): NOAA requests an increase of \$650,000 for a total of \$2,128,000 to support key science and analysis efforts fundamental to meeting NOAA’s mandate under Executive Order 13158 to develop an effective national system of marine protected areas built through integrating the sites and capabilities of existing federal, state, and tribal programs. With the requested increase, the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Center will be able to advance several critical components of the National System of MPAs, including the completion of methodologies and tools to complete a natural and cultural resource characterization and analysis of human uses and impacts on the marine environment for the West Coast as a pilot study; beginning a process to work with stakeholders to use this information to identify priority areas for conservation of significant natural and cultural resources; and partially restore support for public outreach and the MPA Federal Advisory Committee, a diverse group of stakeholders and scientific experts providing advice to the Departments of Commerce and the Interior on National System development.

Statement of Need

Executive Order 13158 was created to address the need identified by scientists and others for an effective, representative, National System of MPAs. The Executive Order established the MPA Center to lead this effort, coordinating across agencies, levels of government, and stakeholders. Key to the success of this endeavor are MPA Center-led activities to analyze the existing collection of MPAs and the hundreds of authorities under which they operate; increase the scientific understanding of effective MPA design; and develop tools to enhance MPA management and planning. The requested funds are critical for supporting the capabilities needed to fulfill this mission. Without these funds, the MPA Center will lose momentum on developing the National System, and the long-term credibility of and support for NOAA’s leadership on MPAs will be diminished.

Proposed Actions

With the increase, NOAA will advance the West Coast MPA pilot project in California, Oregon and Washington by working with federal and state agencies to: complete the development of methods and the acquisition of data for characterizing important habitats and resources in the pilot area; develop and test a shared marine cultural resources information database; develop and pilot a method for documenting patterns and impacts of human uses; and begin the assessment of gaps in protection among existing MPAs.

The MPA Center will also hold a limited number of forums around the nation for stakeholders to meaningfully discuss and provide comments on the draft framework for the National System of MPAs; hold meetings of the MPA Federal Advisory Committee to provide expert advice on MPA science, planning and implementation; and build on MPA Center coordination and technical assistance successes among partners in the New England and West Coast regions (e.g. States, Fishery Management Councils, etc) by maintaining Regional Coordinator positions in each region.

Benefits

The U.S. has long used marine protected areas to manage and conserve some of our most important ocean areas. By meeting the long-standing need for more effective, objective, science-based and inclusive approaches to MPA design and management, NOAA will provide an invaluable service to all sectors and stakeholders in the U.S. who are interested in, or affected by marine protected areas and who have a stake in a legacy of healthy and sustainable ecosystems. Specifically, the requested increase will result in: new tools, methods, and processes to bring together scientific information and stakeholder input to identify priority conservation areas that can be applied nationwide; an analysis of the extent and effectiveness of existing place-based management measures within the context of ecosystem-based management; better leveraging of active state MPA planning efforts on the west coast with ongoing federal efforts to link science and management initiatives; and a regionally-based MPA coordination and planning process that ensures stakeholder participation, as recommended by the MPA Federal Advisory Committee.

Performance Goals and Measurement Data

This increase will support the objective, “Enhance the conservation and management of coastal and marine resources to meet America's economic, social, and environmental needs” under the Department of Commerce Strategic Goal of “Observe, protect, and manage the Earth's resources to promote environmental needs.”

TERMINATIONS FOR 2007:

The following programs, or portions thereof, have been terminated in FY 2007: CZMA Grants (\$2,117,000); Nonpoint Pollution Control Implementation Grants (\$2,959,000); Baldwin Education Program (\$986,000).

Subactivity: Ocean and Coastal Management
Line Item: Ocean Management (Marine Sanctuary Program)

GOAL STATEMENT:

The goal of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA), as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), administered by the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), is to designate, manage, and protect areas of the marine environment which possess conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, research, educational or aesthetic qualities which give them special national significance. The primary purpose of the NMSA is resource conservation and protection.

BASE DESCRIPTION:

In the Ocean Management Line Item, NOAA administers the National Marine Sanctuary System under authority of the NMSA. There are 13 designated national marine sanctuaries: Monitor (NC), Channel Islands (CA), Gray's Reef (GA), Gulf of the Farallones (CA), Fagatele Bay (AS), Cordell Bank (CA), Florida Keys (FL), Flower Garden Banks (TX/LA), Gerry Studds Stellwagen Bank (MA), Monterey Bay (CA), Olympic Coast (WA), Thunder Bay Underwater Preserve (MI) and Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale (HI). The sanctuaries range in size from one-quarter square mile in Fagatele Bay to over 5,300 square miles in Monterey Bay, which is one of the largest marine protected areas in the world. Together, these sanctuaries encompass over 18,000 square miles of waters and marine habitats. In addition, the NMSP administers and manages the 131,818 square miles Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve that is undergoing the sanctuary designation process. The special habitats of the sanctuaries include deep ocean and near-shore coral reefs, live bottom, whale migration corridors, deep sea canyons, areas of deep water upwelling, submerged banks that rise close to the ocean surface, kelp forests, and sea grass beds. With the increasing environmental pressures on our nation's coastal areas, the importance of maintaining a system of marine protected areas is evident. The National Marine Sanctuary System is increasing our knowledge and understanding of complex marine ecosystems. NOAA's sanctuaries help monitor both human and natural changes in the environment that can help us preserve our marine environments.

To support all of these functions, the NMSP has implemented a Small Boat Program, to ensure the safe and efficient operations of the small boats, including maintenance. An inventory of all small boats, incorporating a record of safety inspections, operators, licenses, and safety classes, is also maintained in accordance with the NOS Small Boat Policy. To address the increased requirement for new or replacement boats, the Program also is implementing the recommendations identified in its "Small Boat Requirements Study" (November 2005).

The National Marine Sanctuary System exemplifies NOAA's Strategic Plan Mission Goal to Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystem-based management. Base activities support the objective, "Enhance the conservation and management of coastal and marine resources to meet America's economic, social, and environmental needs" under the Department of Commerce Strategic Goal of "Observe, protect, and manage the Earth's resources to promote environmental needs."

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PROGRAM (NMSP)

The NMSP operates and coordinates the nation's system of marine sanctuaries. Individual sanctuary offices are responsible for the daily operation of a wide variety of education, research, monitoring and management programs. The activities that each site undertakes include: development, implementation, and systematic review of comprehensive management plans to protect these unique areas; development and implementation of local research and monitoring programs to better understand the resources and potential impacts on those resources; development and implementation of cultural resource programs to survey and inventory resources to ensure their long-term protection; development and implementation of education and outreach activities to inform the public about the value of marine resources and how human activities can impact the marine environment; enforcement of sanctuary regulations; permitting of otherwise prohibited activities to allow valuable research and education activities; management of volunteer programs that monitor and educate on marine resources; and management of citizen advisory councils to ensure that each sanctuary is responsive to community needs. In addition, each site is engaged in a number of partnership relationships with other federal agencies, state agencies, local universities, and other local institutions.

Programmatic oversight, guidance, and support from the headquarters office ensure that the sites function as a coordinated system. Headquarters functions include the development of programmatic initiatives, such as system-wide research, monitoring, cultural resource, education, and outreach programs; policy development; budget development and tracking; legislative and regulatory initiatives; review and revisions of management plans; development and designation of new sites; and overall guidance and program direction. These functions ensure that the NMSP is an integrated system that has greater national impact than the sum of the individual site actions.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

NOAA will continue to work with Congress to reauthorize National Marine Sanctuaries Act.

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA

(Dollars in thousands)

Subactivity: Ocean and Coastal Management	FY 2005 ACTUALS	FY 2006 CURRENTLY AVAILABLE	FY 2007 BASE PROGRAM	FY 2007 ESTIMATE	INCREASE / DECREASE
Line Item: Ocean Management (Marine Sanctuary Program)					
Marine Sanctuary Program Base	50,319	35,160	35,218	35,218	-
Marine Sanctuary Foundation / Ocean Activity Fund	4,928	-	-	-	-
Northeast Hawaiian Islands Rsrch / HI Institute of Marine Biology	1,479	2,220	-	-	-
Northwest Straits Citizens Advisory Commission	1,232	1,381	-	-	-
TOTAL	57,958	38,761	35,218	35,218	-
FTE	119	140	140	140	-

Note: The dollars in this table represent budget authority.

PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2007:

No program changes are proposed for FY 2007.

TERMINATIONS FOR 2007:

The following programs have been terminated in FY 2007: Northwest Straits Citizens Advisory Commission (\$1,381,000); Northeast Hawaiian Islands Research / HI Institute of Marine Biology (\$2,220,000).